## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Antonio L. P. Rotondaro

Docket No: TI-31133

Serial No:

To be Assigned

Examiner:

TBD

Conf. No:

To be Assigned

Art Unit:

TBD

Filed:

11/01/2001

For:

METHOD TO IMPROVE THE UNIFORMITY AND REDUCE THE SURFACE ROUGHNESS

OF THE SILICON DIELECTRIC INTERFACE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label No. EL645458852US. I hereby certify that the above correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage for "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on

Ann Trent

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above identified application, please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

--This application claims priority under 35 USC § 119(e)(1) of provisional application Serial No. 60/247,408, filed November 10, 2000.--

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions concerning this application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter K. McLarty Agent for Applicant Reg. No. 44,923

Texas Instruments Incorporated Mail Station 3999 P.O. Box 655474 Dallas, TX 75265 (972) 917-4258